IV.

The Hiſtory of a Caſe of Chorea, ſucceſsfully treated by means of Camphor. By John Wilſon, *M. D. Phyſician at Mansfield, Nottinghamſhire.*

ANN GASKILL, a poor girl, 15 years of age, after having been expoſed to cold and wet weather, in Auguſt 1786 was ſeized with irregular convulſive motions of the right arm and leg. Theſe ſymptoms gradually became more violent and extended. The muſcles of the trunk of the body were ſimilarly affected; and the leg and arm of the left ſide were frequently convulſed. Her head was repeatedly drawn aſide; and on lifting any thing to her mouth, her arm was frequently and irregularly retracted. Her body was violently diſtorted when ſhe attempted to ſpeak, and what ſhe uttered was

unintelligible. The powers of her mind were evidently impaired; and, by the appearance of her countenance, there was no inconſiderable degree of fatuity. Her body was much emaciated; the pulſe was ſmall and quick; her ſkin parched; what ſleep ſhe obtained was broken and attended with moaning; her body was bound; the catamenia had never appeared. For ſeveral months during the firſt part of her illneſs ſhe was attended by Mr Brook, an ingenious and humane ſurgeon in this place. He gave her the moſt powerful medicines in the claſs of tonics; ſuch as bark, zinc, cuprum ammoniacum, chalybeates, mercury, and bitters, without the ſmalleſt advantage. Wearied at length with repeated ineffectual efforts to relieve her, he deſired I would attend her; and I found her with the ſymptoms I have deſcribed.

Viewing her diſeaſe as the effect of great mobility in the nervous ſyſtem, I ordered her one of the moſt powerful in the claſs of nervous medicines, Camphor. She began with four grains three times in the day, with a ſmall portion of aſa-fœtida. Her ſymptoms were evidently relieved after ſhe had

continued

continued her medicine ſome little time. Encouraged by this faint gleam of ſucceſs, I increaſed the doſe of the camphor gradually to eighteen grains four times in the day. This plan ſhe purſued ſteadily, joined with a generous diet, for nearly three months. Every day gave her new incitement to adhere to it; and her perſeverance is now rewarded by the enjoyment of her former health and vigour.

I have ſince given the camphor to an epileptic boy, in doſes of thirty grains, with conſiderable benefit.

V.